IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 12-15, 22-25, 21-35, and 37, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A peripheral apparatus comprising:

connecting means for connecting to a host computer;

first means for, in response to a data reading request which is issued from ~~said~~ the host computer, notifying said connecting means of response data in ~~the~~ a case where the response data has been prepared and notifying said connecting means of the fact that a response cannot be made in ~~the~~ a case where the response data is not prepared yet;

second means for notifying said connecting means of the absence of data to be ~~responded~~ sent in response to the data reading request which is issued from ~~said~~ the host computer; and

switching means for switching said first means and said second means in accordance with a status of ~~the~~ said peripheral apparatus.

Claim 2 (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising second connecting means different from said connecting means, ~~and~~ wherein, in a case of processing data from said second connecting means, said switching means switches to said second means.

Claim 3 (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said connecting means is connected to ~~said~~ the host computer through a cable which conforms with a USB standard or an IEEE1394 standard.

Claim 4 (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said connecting means is connected to ~~said~~ the host computer through a cable which conforms with a USB standard or an IEEE1394 standard, and said second connecting means is connected to ~~said~~ the host computer through a cable which conforms with an IEEE1284 standard.

Claim 5 (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first means notifies of the response data by a data packet, and said second means notifies of the fact that said response cannot be made by an Nak packet, and notifies of the absence of the data to be ~~responded~~ sent by a blank packet.

Claim 6 (original): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said peripheral apparatus includes a printer.

Claim 7 (original): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said peripheral apparatus includes a scanner.

Claim 8 (original): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said peripheral apparatus includes a facsimile.

Claim 9 (original): An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said switching means switches to said second means at a timing when a printer engine or a scanner engine operates.

Claim 10 (original): An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said switching means switches to said second means at a timing when print data is received, a timing when a development of the print data is started, or a timing when the development of the print data is finished.

Claim 11 (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said switching means switches to said second means at a timing when an engine control is performed, when the data is received, when a development of the data is started, or when the development of the data is finished, switches to said first means when an error occurs, switches to said second means when the error is recovered, and switches to said first means when a job is finished,

and after switching to said first means when the error occurs, error information is ~~notified~~ sent to said connecting means.

Claims 12 - 15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (currently amended): A control method for a peripheral apparatus, comprising the steps of:

when a status of the apparatus is a first status, switching a control mode to a first mode such that in response to a data reading request which is issued from a host computer, when response data has been prepared, the response data is notified, and when the response data is not prepared yet, the fact that a response cannot be made is notified; and

when the status of the apparatus is not the first status, switching the control mode to a second mode such that in response to the data reading request which is issued from the host computer, the absence of data to be ~~responded~~ sent is notified.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A method according to claim 16, wherein, in a case of processing data from a second host, the control mode is switched to ~~said~~ the second mode.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A method according to claim 16, wherein ~~said~~ the response data is notified by using a data packet, ~~said~~ the fact that the response cannot be made is notified by using an Nak packet, and ~~said~~ the absence of the data to be responded is notified by using a blank packet.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A method according to claim 16, wherein the control mode is switched to ~~said~~ the second mode at a timing when a printer engine or a scanner engine operates.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A method according to claim 16, wherein the control mode is switched to ~~said~~ the second mode at a timing when print data is received, a timing when a development of the print data is started, or a timing when the development of the print data is finished.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A method according to claim 16, wherein the control mode is switched to ~~said~~ the second mode when an engine control is performed, when

data is received, when a development of the data is started, or when the development of the data

is finished, is switched to ~~said~~ the first mode when an error occurs, is switched to ~~said~~ the second

mode when the error is recovered, and is switched to ~~said~~ the first mode when a job is finished,

and after the control mode is switched to ~~said~~ the first mode when the error

occurs, error information is notified.

Claims 22 - 25 (canceled)

Claim 26 (currently amended): A computer-readable memory medium which

stores a program, the program comprising the steps of:

when a status of the apparatus is a first status, switching a control mode to

a first mode such that in response to a data reading request which is issued from a host computer,

when response data has been prepared, the response data is notified, and when the response data

is not prepared yet, the fact that a response cannot be made is notified; and

when the status of the apparatus is not the first status, switching the

control mode to a second mode such that in response to the data reading request which is issued

from ~~said~~ the host computer, the absence of data to be responded is notified.

Claim 27 (currently amended): A medium according to claim 26, wherein, in a case of processing data from a second host, the control mode is switched to ~~said~~ the second mode.

Claim 28 (currently amended): A medium according to claim 26, wherein said medium stores a program such that ~~said~~ the response data is ~~notified~~ sent by using a data packet, ~~said~~ the fact that the response cannot be made is notified by using an Nak packet, and ~~said~~ the absence of the data to be ~~responded~~ sent is notified by using a blank packet.

Claim 29 (currently amended): A medium according to claim 26, wherein said medium stores a program for switching the control mode to ~~said~~ the second mode at a timing when a printer engine or a scanner engine operates.

Claim 30 (currently amended): A medium according to claim 26, wherein said medium stores a program for switching the control mode to ~~said~~ the second mode at a timing when print data is received, a timing when a development of the print data is started, or a timing when the development of the print data is finished.

Claim 31 (currently amended): A medium according to claim 26, wherein said medium stores a program such that

the control mode is switched to ~~said~~ the second mode when an engine control is performed, when data is received, when a development of the data is started, or when the development of the data is finished, is switched to ~~said~~ the first mode when an error occurs, is switched to ~~said~~ the second mode when the error is recovered, and is switched to ~~said~~ the first mode when a job is finished,

and after the control mode is switched to ~~said~~ the first mode when the error occurs, error information is notified.

Claims 32 - 35 (canceled)

Claim 36 (currently amended): An information processing system comprising:

a host computer; and

a peripheral apparatus,

wherein said peripheral apparatus comprises:

connecting means for connecting to [[a]] said host computer;

first means for, in response to a data reading request which is

issued from ~~the~~ said host computer, notifying said connecting means of response data in the case

where the response data has been prepared and notifying said connecting means of the fact that a

response cannot be made in the case where the response data is not prepared yet;

second means for notifying said connecting means of the absence of data

to be ~~responded~~ sent in response to the data reading request which is issued from ~~the~~ said host

computer; and

switching means for switching said first means and said second means in

accordance with a status of ~~the~~ said peripheral apparatus.

Claim 37 (canceled)